



The HOWLER



WHAT'S INSIDE:

Shelter News

Success Stories

Advice Columns

Animal Communication

SAS Fights Animal Abuse

Foster Care Can Save a Life

Employee Profiles

Furry 5K Race Update

Wish List!



Thank you to the brave citizens who reported animal abuse they witnessed on Capitol Hill. Because of them, Creature now runs free on the beach in Oregon with her new brother and is living a great life.

IN 30 YEARS OF HEROISM, THIS OFFICER HAS SEEN IT ALL!

By Penelope Kern

Five years ago, SAS Animal Care Supervisor Virginia Dalton nearly lost her vision, but fortunately, Enforcement Supervisor Steve Couvion came to her rescue.

Dalton had been cleaning the kennels, and accidentally splashed caustic chemicals into her eyes. Alone and temporarily blinded, she screamed for help, but no one could hear her. The louder she screamed, the more the dogs barked, drowning her pleas. She felt her way to the phone, hoping to get Couvion, who was working dispatch. Sobbing and unable to see the numbers, she tried over and over, until she finally got him. She told him to get down to the kennels, that she was in trouble.

In seconds, Couvion had grabbed Dalton and led her to the emergency eyewash, where he held her face under the water until an aid car arrived.

"All I could think of was to get Steve. Any time there's an emergency, Steve is the one you want around," Dalton says. "He's always right there, and knows exactly what to do if someone is in trouble."

Couvion's fellow Enforcement Supervisor Al Rechtermann can testify to that. Fifteen years ago,

when Rechtermann was a rookie Animal Control officer, he answered an emergency call in West Seattle. Three large, vicious dogs had escaped their yards and were terrorizing the neighbors.

Rechtermann parked at the end of the cul-de-sac and got out to capture the dogs, but when they saw him coming, they chased him back into his truck. Trapped, he called a fellow officer to assist him. She arrived a few minutes later, got out of her truck, only to be chased back into it as residents watched from their porches. While the frenzied trio circled, barking, snarling and occasionally charging at other people, Rechtermann radioed Couvion, telling him to bring a tranquilizer gun.

Couvion arrived 30 minutes later. He walked calmly to the back of his truck, opened the tackle box and rummaged around. He then realized he'd forgotten the tranquilizers.

Silently, he grabbed a catchpole, a pole



continued on p.12

SEATTLE animal shelter

Seattle's shelter for homeless and lost and found pets is located on 15th Avenue West—one mile south of the Ballard Bridge.

HOURS

Tues–Sat: Noon–6 p.m.

Sun: Noon–4 p.m.

PHONE

(206) 386-PETS (7387)

WEB SITE

www.seattleanimalshelter.org

SAS CELEBRATES ITS 30TH-YEAR ANNIVERSARY



By Don Jordan,
Executive Director

It seems that only yesterday, packs of dogs ran loose through Seattle, a common sight 30 years ago. Over that 30 years, the Seattle Animal Shelter (a.k.a. Seattle Animal Control) changed significantly. Not long

ago, the shelter didn't have flourishing volunteer and foster care programs or the financial support necessary to rehabilitate sick, injured and abused homeless animals. Back then, the fate of animals wasn't pretty.

In 1972, SAS handled over 25,000 live animals, 20,000 of which were put to sleep. The shelter now handles less than 8,000 live animals each year, thanks in part to our Municipal Spay and Neuter Clinic, which opened in 1982. By 1989, it was one of the first government-operated clinics to sterilize animals at six to eight weeks of age. The dedicated staff has helped reduce pet overpopulation and has worked hard to educate Seattle about the importance of spaying and neutering pets.

I have served this organization in different capacities since 1990. When I assumed my current position in 1996, I realized it would be difficult to achieve our potential unless we became a community-based organization with an active volunteer network. By early 1998, we began aggressive volunteer and foster care programs, and we now have over 600 volunteers and foster parents working to improve the lives of orphaned animals. In the last six years, we've been blessed to receive over \$500,000 dollars from thousands of caring individuals, enabling us to improve animal welfare, reduce pet overpopulation and promote a more enjoyable environment for dogs to exercise in the city of Seattle.

During the past five years, operating under its motto, "Saving One Life At A Time," the shelter increased adoptions by almost 100%, improved community relations and made significant progress in shaping how our society views companion animals. It has also responded to Seattle's needs through innovative programs such as the Domestic Violence Program, which provides free temporary shelter for pets of domestic violence victims; the Anti-Cruelty Program, which educates the public about animal abuse; and the Pets for Seniors Program, which provides a discount to seniors who adopt older cats.

The SAS staff and volunteers should be proud of their significant contributions to the lives of animals and people in Seattle. It's exciting to think about what the next 30 years will bring!

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." - Mohandas Gandhi (1869-1948)

TELEPATHIC ANIMAL COMMUNICATION. WHAT IS IT?

By Mary J. Getten, Animal Consultant

I have been a professional telepathic animal communicator for seven years. While people are becoming more aware of this field all the time, I still meet individuals who have never heard of animal communication. Here are the basics.

WHAT IS IT?

Telepathy is the universal language and the way all animals speak to each other. We've all seen two animals communicate on a non-verbal level, resulting in play or disagreement. They were speaking to each other telepathically.

Animal telepathy is mind-to-mind communication. It is feeling across a distance. We are all made of energy and connected by a vast web of energetic pathways. When I talk to a person on the phone, we link up energetically. That person also has a link to



their animals, so I get to the animal through the person. To speak to an animal telepathically, you just tune in to the right energy channel.

Time and space are not barriers

in animal communication. It's as easy for me to speak to a dog in New York as one in my living room. I am also able to contact animals that have passed on; that energy connection remains forever.

You can speak to any animal telepathically. I have had conversations with slugs, whales, eagles, seals, spiders, bats, cats, dogs, horses, bunnies – the list goes on and on!

Telepathic communication is an ability that we are all born with. Unfortunately we are socialized out of this skill as we develop speech. You can regain your skills by taking a workshop and practicing – all it takes is some guidance and commitment.

WHY USE IT?

An animal communicator facilitates a two-way conversation for you with your animal. You direct the conversation and can ask questions or provide information for your animal. There are many reasons people want to communicate with their animals. The most common are behavior problems, health issues, death and dying, upcoming changes, or just checking to see if there is anything they need or want.

Talking doesn't solve every problem, but through animal communication you can gain a deeper understanding of your animal companion and often find a solution.

continued on Page 10...

NOT READY TO BE RECYCLED!



By Christine Titus, Anti-Cruelty Team Leader

The call came in to dispatch. Two drivers for a recycling company had found a litter of week-old kittens in a recycle bin. Officer Goldberg was sent to rescue the precious cargo. He brought them into the shelter, where staff and volunteers bottle-fed them immediately. But the kittens needed to be transferred to foster care or they would not survive. It was late in the day, and only one person was available to take them home until a long-term foster home could be found -- a dog-walking volunteer known as Overalls Jim.

A one-day-old puppy was also brought in late that day, so Jim agreed to take the puppy and kittens home for the night. "I'll be up all night anyway with the pup, so I may as well feed the seven kittens, too," Jim said.

Everyone survived the first night. The puppy slept with the kittens. The next day, Jim brought them into the shelter and they went to separate foster homes. Every year the Seattle Animal Shelter receives kittens from local waste disposal companies and recycling businesses. We are grateful for the compassion these workers show to our small creatures.

Abandoning animals in this way is unlawful and unnecessary. Seattle has an animal shelter and does not turn away any people who can no longer care for their animals. If you witness someone dumping animals in garbage cans or abandoning them in parking lots, please call 386-PETS to report this unlawful activity. The animals are counting on YOU!

SAS DEPENDS ON YOUR COMPASSION TO HELP SAVE ANIMALS FROM CRUELTY

By Penelope Kern

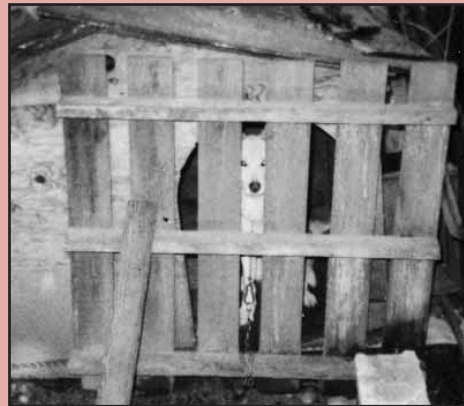
The German shepherd had been chained to the gutted car for years. He'd rarely been brought food, fresh water or been given affection during his lonely life in the muddy yard. But his suffering had been observed by neighbors who'd chosen to ignore his plight -- until it was nearly too late.

A couple of winters ago, during a particularly rainy spell, the German shepherd's yard had become a knee-deep pond. And there he was standing, eyes closing, head nodding, fighting a hypothermic stupor to stay awake, since for him, lying down meant giving up and sleeping meant dying.

Fortunately, a neighbor finally picked up his phone, and Officer Don Baxter arrived in time to save the tortured shadow of a dog. Through shelter efforts and foster care, the German shepherd gained the weight, confidence and dignity he was born to have, and now lives with a family who gives him the life he earned with his hellish tenure in the mud.

Most cruelty cases Seattle Animal Control officers see are much like the German shepherd's -- a dog chained outside in the rain without shelter, clean water, food, or companionship. Often, the animal wears a collar so tight it has grown into his neck. Sometimes, he has been desperately in need of medical care his owners failed to provide.

In his four years with Animal Control, Officer Don Baxter has seen too many of those cases. He recalls a 10-month-old puppy hit and dragged along the pavement by a car. The owners had chosen to treat the dog's mangled leg at home, rather than spend money on vet care that he needed.



"Anyone who has accustomed himself to regard the life of any living creature as worthless is in danger of arriving also at the idea of worthless human lives." -- Albert Schweitzer

"They had duct-taped his leg, which had been filleted by the accident," Baxter says. "By the time I picked up the dog, he was in excruciating pain, the leg was rotting and had to be amputated. But the shelter got him the vet care he needed, rehabilitated him, and he was later adopted."

Animal Control officers also see their share of deliberate physical abuse, from beating as punishment to horrific torture and mutilation. There is also cruelty for entertainment and profit -- illegal animal fighting, a burgeoning problem in the United States, ranging from impromptu fights staged by gangs in public parks to professionally-run matches for high-stakes gambling.

"People need to be made aware that fighting animals is wrong, that it's not accepted by society," says Enforcement Supervisor Steve Couvion. "You're not putting yourself on the line, you're forcing an animal to fight. It's a cowardly, cruel thing to do."

But the greatest cruelty, says Couvion, is mental cruelty. Law enforcement's definition of cruelty is physical, but he also considers lack of affection and companionship as cruel. And though

continued on page 5...

GAT SCRATCHING YOUR FURNITURE? THE BEST REMEDIES AND PREVENTIONS FOR YOU...

The problem is not that cats scratch, but where they scratch. Cats need to scratch -- it is an important part of "cat-ness." Nail grooming, muscle stretching and marking territory are all functions of scratching. The solution is to provide attractive scratching areas for your cat.

Unfortunately, there are many scratchers sold that few respectable felines would deign to use. Spend your dollars wisely and look for tall, stable scratchers. Texture is also important. Most cats prefer rope or woven sisal.

The taller the post, the better. If you can make one, a vertical floor-to-ceiling post also serves as a great exerciser as kitty works to pull himself up the post to a single perch at the top. See *The Cat's House* by Bob Walker for instructions. In addition to the essential tall post, many cats enjoy variations for scratching. Horizontal scratchers offer that variation and are available in sisal or cardboard.

Placement is important, too. Furniture with tempting designs and textures may need a post nearby. My recliner was a favorite target until I placed a very stable, 30-inch-high woven sisal post behind it. The chair was saved, and the cats get a good stretch for their back and shoulder muscles on this post.

Cats like to stretch when they wake up, so place a scratcher near favorite catnap areas. And if there are territory concerns for the cat(s) in your home, scratchers at entries to territories can help ease tensions.

After you have good scratching choices in place, your cat may still scratch certain pieces of furniture out of habit and because scent marks from his pads are still there. You can help him establish the new habit of using the scratchers with positive reinforcement when you see him using them. Also, make the furniture unattractive by covering favorite scratch areas with double sticky-tape, sold at many pet stores. Or, you can use clear plastic from a fabric store cut to fit over the areas, and held in place with upholstery pins. (Forget the squirt gun idea -- it can backfire).

WHAT ABOUT DECLAWING?

Be careful in choosing this solution, because it could cause other problems that can be very difficult to manage, such as biting, litter box problems, chronic pain, and personality changes. It also limits cats' ability to exercise properly.

In some countries, declawing is even outlawed! In addition to adding the right kind of scratchers to your home, another option is to have kitty wear plastic nail covers such as Soft Claws. These claw covers glue on and last about six weeks. They are comfortable and come in an array of colors.

Many veterinarians counsel clients against declawing and steer them towards suitable alternatives. So if you're having cat-scratching problems, ask your vet or pet store about Soft Claws, and seek behavioral help.

Ellen Leach is a cat behaviorist.

DEAR DOGTOR...



Dear Dogtor: We just adopted a nice dog from the shelter. He's very friendly but doesn't obey commands. We've had him for two weeks. Do you have any suggestions?

Max's Dad

Dear Dad: Congratulations on your adoption! You'll find "second-hand dogs" make wonderful pets. You've only had Max two weeks. Without knowing his background, it's hard to make an assessment, but generally speaking, you need to give him time to settle into his new home. Dogs are creatures of habit, and he's most likely feeling a little disoriented. Give him time, but don't spoil him. The best thing you can do is to take him to obedience classes. It's a wonderful way to bond and establish your authority without being harsh. Good luck!

Dear Dogtor: My dog has been scratching constantly for several weeks. It's driving me crazy! What should I do???

Scratchy's Mom

Dear Mom: Scratching can be a symptom of several different problems. The obvious is fleas, which have been particularly bad this year. To see if your dog has fleas, use a flea comb (one with very narrow teeth) and see if any fleas or their "dirt" appear.

You can also put your dog on a white sheet, brush him, and see if any of the dirt falls off. (It will look like little black specks. If you drop water on it and it turns red, it's flea dirt.) Check with your veterinarian for safe flea products -- shampoo, drops, spray, powder, etc. You may also need to spray the premises with a flea killer.

Scratching can also indicate food allergies. Contact a nutritionist, usually found at better pet supply stores, for help. Always feed a premium food, not a generic brand, which has lots of fillers, and be aware that food allergies can develop at any time. **Good luck!**

Send your questions to SherIDog@aol.com! The author, Nancy Phillips, is a dog behaviorist. ©NEP

For upcoming eventws visit our web site and click on Calendar of Events

DIARY OF REX

Former Shelter Resident, as Told to Dianne Elliot, Matchmakers Program Team Leader

JUNE 15, 2002

The grooming team arrives. I try to show off but they only look at dogs who've been approved for adoption. I just arrived after being found on the street, hit by a car, but I'm glad I'm here, 'cause even if it ain't the Ritz, it's clean, warm, and full of kind people who give me affection and a place to rest.



A girl named Chris walks by me as she returns a dog to its kennel. She spots me. I bat my eyes and drag my leg. She tells me how handsome I am. I look in her eyes. I can smell it - she is putty in my hands. She promises to come back tomorrow to see me. I know she means it, so I sleep peacefully.

JUNE 16, 2002

Chris returns. She tells me she can't get me out of her mind and will see if she can foster me. Because she already has other pets, she says she can't adopt me, but will care for me until someone does. The first person she meets that day is Anne Treadwell, who runs the Foster Care Program. This is fate!!

Chris takes me home and I forget those people who didn't care about me. I meet her family. Her husband, Brian, doesn't seem thrilled, and neither do their dogs, Pete and Cleo, and their cat, Sparky Lyle. I'll try to charm them so they'll warm up to me.

Finally, my charm worked and Brian told Chris he thinks they should adopt me!

JUNE 24, 2002

I just had surgery on my leg. **The Help the Animals Fund** paid for it. The surgeon donated the rest of the cost to save my leg. I'm feeling special because people donated money to help the likes of me! Now I have a good leg, a wonderful home, and so many people to thank. I'm going home with Chris tonight!

AUGUST 25, 2002

I just returned from Marymoor Park where my new family took me, Pete and Cleo to play. I can't believe how lucky I am! And it all started with the Seattle Animal Control officers, who knew I was scared and told me I'd be all right and they wouldn't hurt or abandon me like other people had. And you know what? They were telling the truth!

SEPTEMBER 3, 2002

It's time to jump into bed with my family for our nightly cuddle. Tonight, I'll dream of how I was at the right place at the right time, and of how I met my wonderful family.

*Love,
Rex*

Animal Cruelty continued from page 3...

there's no law that says you must pet your dog, there are ways Animal Control officers can rescue a dog from emotional neglect. How?

"If you put a dog in that situation, he's probably going to bark, and we can go in on a noise violation, which is why I'm so adamant about them," Couvion says. "Dogs usually don't bark unless there's a darn good reason. That's why officers have to have intelligence, creativity and a good amount of common sense. Sometimes we have to get creative to save an animal."

HOW CAN YOU HELP SAVE AN ANIMAL?

If you witness abuse, whether deliberate cruelty or unintentional neglect, report it to the Seattle Animal Shelter. SAS is the enforcement agency for Seattle, and cruelty reports are highest priority, as are reports of abject neglect.

If you're uncomfortable with the way you have seen an animal treated, chances are, the animal is suffering and needs help. SAS depends on YOU to report abuse. Call **386-PETS (7387)** with as much information as possible, including the location and condition of the animal and whether he has food, water and shelter. If you're witnessing physical abuse at the time of the call, call 911 immediately. And identify the abuser, of course.

You may request that your identity remain confidential so your name is not released under Washington state public disclosure laws, but if the case is prosecuted, SAS may need you to serve as a witness. But either way, you'll be saving an animal who has no one to speak for him – besides you.

For specific definitions of animal cruelty and neglect, go to www.seattleanimalshelter.org and look under Anti-Cruelty Information.

SUCCESS!

HOME SWEET HOME...AT LAST

By Anne Treadwell, Foster Care Coordinator/Dogs

An older, stray, shepherd-husky mix was brought in by officers last Christmas. When he walked into the shelter, he captured the hearts of everyone, who named him Rudy.

Rudy was bathed, fattened up, and given a soft bed. Volunteers soon learned he was extremely intelligent and quite the alpha. He walked with kingly attitude that quieted the other dogs and made the volunteers and employees smile.

We thought Rudy would be adopted quickly. He was believed to be a great family dog. But we waited, February came, and Rudy was still at the shelter. A family fostered Rudy for over a month. They adored Rudy and he adored them. Then they received a call from a potential adopter whom they met and liked.

When Rudy's adopter went to work, Rudy chewed her blinds. He didn't want to be left alone so soon, and he missed his family. So he was returned, and his foster family took him home again. Months passed. Then an Oregonian found Rudy on the web and adopted him. Rudy went to his home in Portland, but when he left Rudy alone, Rudy ate his rug. So Rudy was returned again. Then, a week later, a family called wanting to meet Rudy. They fell in love and took Rudy home.

Everyone at the shelter held their breath as they waited for news, until two volunteers visited Rudy and said:

"Rudy is incredibly happy and is home, at last, on a cul-de-sac in the woods. He greeted us with kisses, then showed off his family. He has a grandma he hangs out with all day and a 13-year-old human he adores. He also loves the 13-year-old's friends, and watches them work on their bikes. Rudy's human papa has a sister with a female husky. They have play dates and go to Greenlake together. And when Rudy and his papa play keep-away with toys, he looks like a puppy!"

Rudy's human mom is the most smitten. She is so proud of Rudy, and buys him toys and sausages! He sleeps next to her bed. He stays up every night until the last person goes to bed, and is very protective of them. And he hasn't shown any signs of separation anxiety!

Rudy loves car rides, so his dad asked us if we wanted to take Rudy for a ride, which we did. We stopped at a store and a passer-by said, "What a beautiful dog, and he looks so happy!"

And he does. He truly does. The look on his face while he sat in my car made the hundreds of hours spent saving his life worthwhile."

Special thanks to Laura, Jane, and Greg - Rudy's foster parents.



THANKS!

On Behalf of the Animals

Thanks for the cat and dog food, towels, cozy blankets, dog houses, leashes, collars, cat litter and toys. Your generous donations were redistributed to needy animals throughout Seattle.

A special thanks to Mike Schmidt, a true dog whisperer, for working with our special-needs animals and for training our volunteers and foster folks how to better understand the animals we love. Schmidt fosters German shepherds, trains the Bremerton Police K-9 handlers, and helps dog rescue groups understand the animals they're trying to save.

Thanks to Bartell's/Kodak for their annual contributions, which pay for supplies for the animals. These supplies are used by the volunteers to walk, bathe and play with the shelter animals, improving their quality of life.

If you have adopted a companion from the Seattle Animal Shelter and would like to tell YOUR story, we would love to hear from you! Please send your story to: Virginia.Dalton@seattle.gov, and include your full name, email address and phone number.

THANKS FROM SAS AND THE HOWLER!

Thank you to Rub-A-Dub Dog Washing - They have been bathing our shelter dogs for over four years. They're wonderful, big-hearted people who have helped restore the dignity of our homeless dogs.

Thank you to Diane Jessup for working with our volunteers and staff. Diane is an animal control officer with Thurston County and lectures on pit bulls throughout the country. She is a recognized expert and renowned author of books about the breed.

And Thanks to Bruce Carroll for his photographs and time, and Pacific Color for help with the lab work!

SUCCESS!

DARCY'S FAMILY *By Suzanne Rubins*

Darcy, a petite white rabbit with tender pink eyes, was found roaming Capitol Hill and came to the shelter thin, soiled, terrified - and pregnant. The shelter put her in a double cage with a nest so she'd have extra space when she gave birth, which she did within a few days.

Mother rabbits must be able to get away from their babies; it's part of their retained wild instinct to keep their scent from leading predators to the nest. If confined, they may destroy their litters out of stress. They only nurse once or twice a day. The rest of the time, they keep watch.

There wasn't any quiet space at the shelter, so Darcy and her babies went into foster care immediately. Darcy was a good mama and her four babies were fat and healthy



from the beginning. They began exploring at two weeks and took over the kitchen: climbing on boxes and their foster mom, zooming around, eating, and transforming their world into a big bathroom - at least for a while! Sheets and towels had to be replaced daily, but the babies soon caught on to the litterbox concept. And when they first learned to scratch their ears like grownup rabbits, they'd topple over like Weebles!

Darcy enjoys gentle petting and has put on weight, but will need to stay in foster care until she's calm enough to be adopted. One baby, Fremont, already has a home of her own AND a boyfriend -- Archie, another shelter alum. The two boys, Alki and Wallingford, are sweet lop-eared fellows who groom one another and are available as a pair, and Denny is available on her own. They are all

playful and curious and have long, happy lives to look forward to, thanks to their friends at SAS.

The shelter often needs foster homes for small animals including rabbits, rodents, guinea pigs and ferrets. Please contact us if you can help!

GUARDIAN ANGEL DAY ROCKS GREENLAKE!

The Seattle Animal Shelter's first annual Guardian Angel Day on August 24, 2002, was a phenomenal success! While the Advanced Dog Walking Team has been walking around Greenlake for four years, it was obvious from SAS's first anti-cruelty event that people are very interested in the Seattle Animal Shelter and the priceless services it provides Seattle.

There were ten animal abuse situations reported to Enforcement Supervisor Steve Couvion, who represented Animal Control, and many people had questions for our Anti-Cruelty Team members. The storyboards, always a crowd pleaser, educated the public,



who learned that animals brought in from the field are rehabilitated and adopted into good homes.

The Pet Parade (Get Fit with Fido Team and alumni dogs) was an engaging spectacle, and the dogs, in sundry disguises - an angel, a bumble bee and a tie-dyed Rasta among them -

relished their moment in the limelight. One of them even found a great home, as did a rabbit from our cuddly Critter Club! The Nine Lives Team provided feline representation, and according to Cynthia Lapp, the cats enjoyed the event as much as the costumed canines.

A bake sale, conducted by Jacqueline Adams and her first-grade class from Olympic View Elementary raised \$189, and other donations brought the final figure to \$303.17 for the **Help The Animals Fund**.

Thank you to Marilyn Tomlin, our marketing genius, and our sponsors listed below:

KOMO Radio	Bill Bloxom
Talgo	Alan Ward
PJ's Paws and Claws	John Spear
The Last White Elephant	Mary Snapp
Golem Copy Center	Animal Eye Clinic
Barrier Motors	Carkeek Park Veterinary Hospital
Baas Art Gallery	Animal Emergency and Referral
Dianne Elliott	Mimi Crystal
Priestley Cummings	

Our sponsors paid for over 100 anti-cruelty messages on the radio (KOMO 1000 AM)! These messages played during August and September. And we're still getting new sponsors!

Christine Titus & Penelope V. Kern
Anti-Cruelty Team



A BIG HEART!

Looking for a companion?
Visit us online at
www.seattleanimalshelter.org

By Christine Titus, Volunteer Programs Coordinator

While I work with so many generous volunteers, from time to time one stands out. I met Mark after the June 2002 volunteer orientation. He

came up and introduced himself and said, "I am waiting for a heart, but I'd really like to work with the animals." He was only in his mid-30s.

I met with him the following week after he had completed his training and we talked about how he could work with the animals. Mark visits the shelter three to four days every week and spends an hour with each animal. The dogs just melt in his arms. An hour with Mark is equivalent to a day at the doggie spa, according to his favorite dog, Jessie.

Periodically, I see him in the dog runs and the dogs are usually sprawled on his lap in a Zen state. I am not sure what they are

talking about, but you can see that they have a special relationship. Mark tells me the dogs know he is sick and so they're gentle with him. Waiting for a heart, he says, can be very frustrating and stressful, so sometimes he needs to forget everything and go and spend time with "his dogs".

Mark stops by my office each time he is here to see how I am. Each time I see him I am reminded that I am fine. We often talk about his goals for the future. He tells me that when he gets a heart, he wants to walk around Greenlake. He wants to run with the Fido team. He wants to hike up Tiger Mountain with the shelter dogs. And he talks about fostering, too. But most of all, he would just like to have a dog to call his own.

Today, Mark visited me again. He'd stopped by to let me know that he is next on the list to receive a heart. I wish him lots of positive energy and promise to visit him in the hospital. He won't be able to visit with "his dogs" for months to come.

They will miss him sorely.

DONATIONS HELP STRAY AND INJURED ORPHANS RECEIVE MEDICAL TREATMENT!

The Seattle Animal Shelter established the **Help the Animals Fund** in 1977 so the shelter animals could be given a second chance to find new loving homes and families. Before, the shelter did not have the funds to provide veterinary care for the many animals that desperately needed medical attention.

The **Help the Animals Fund** covers veterinary expenses when an animal is brought to the shelter suffering from injury, malnutrition, upper respiratory ailment, or other illnesses. In 2000, alone, the Seattle Animal Shelter's vet expenses totaled over \$90,000. This fund makes it possible for all shelter animals to receive the vet care they need, not just a chosen few. However, the fund relies solely on the donations of generous individuals and companies, such as you! All donations to the fund are 100% tax deductible.



Expenses Paid for Veterinary Care

Antibiotics	8,368.00
Fluids	9,432.00
Ear Care	5,300.00
Eye Care	5,270.00
Exams	28,880.00
Orthopedic Surgery	8,000.00
Pain Medications	3,568.00
X-Rays	6,688.00
Other Services	5,665.00
Total	81,171.00

August 2001- August 2002

If you wish to make a donation to this life-saving fund, please do so by using the enclosed envelope. Many sick and orphaned animals will appreciate your generous donation.

20 Years of Caring: Excellence at the Spay & Neuter Clinic

By Melissa Zimmermann

Did you know one unspayed cat and her offspring can produce 420,000 cats in seven years? Fortunately, the Seattle Animal Shelter's Municipal Spay and Neuter Clinic has been preventing unwanted pregnancies for 20 years.

Staff Veterinarian Mary Ellen Zoulas has been with the clinic since it opened. Assisting her are veterinary technicians Kim Webb and Jenny Chance and receptionist Reine Komotios. Their schedule is an "intricate ballet" of exams, surgeries, and recovery periods.

Daily, 20 surgeries are performed. Each animal receives careful attention, including an exam, anesthesia, and post-surgical monitoring. Each is treated as an individual -- surgeries may range from spaying a 150-pound mastiff to neutering a two-and-a-half pound kitten. And because the clinic's costs are subsidized, savings are passed on to pet owners.

In her tenure, Zoulas has seen changes at the shelter. Initially, animals were not fully vaccinated, but now they are. The shelter's image has changed from a place where animals are euthanized to one that keeps them healthy while promoting adoption. While Zoulas feels Seattle has always been a "compassionate city," she thinks the public is now more educated about responsible pet ownership, thanks to the efforts of the staff and volunteers, and to the mission of the Spay and Neuter Clinic.

"Our goal," says Zoulas, "is regardless of your financial circumstances, to spay and neuter your pets."

For more information about the Seattle Municipal Spay and Neuter Clinic, please visit <http://www.seattleanimalshelter.org>. To make an appointment for your unaltered pet, call (206) 386-4260.



Be a hero in the war against pet overpopulation...

SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PET!



30 Years of Compassion (206) 386-PETS • www.seattleanimalshelter.org

DID YOU KNOW?

Spaying and neutering reduces the number of homeless animals, saving many from euthanasia. It reduces the risk of mammary cancer in females and prostate cancer in males. It saves pet owners from the tortures of yowling female cats in heat and territory marking by unneutered males. And while some people believe that neutering a male dog will make him lose his protective-ness, it usually only results in less inter-dog aggression, making walks and dog parks much more fun!

DUMPING SMALL ANIMALS IS NOT AN ALTERNATIVE

By Deb Phelan & Suzanne Rubins

Happy was left on a doorstep in a box one chilly morning, matted and shivering. A note read "Please take care of me." He was scared and didn't know what was happening to him. After several weeks in the shelter, he now lives in a loving home. Happy is a Teddy Bear hamster.



His case is a happy one. He was found before he died from exposure or was killed by a cat. Someone brought him to the shelter where he could be cared for and placed in a new home.

Many small animals are not so lucky. People dump them in parks or in the wild. This is especially common with rabbits in Seattle; people see rabbits roaming around parks and think they're appropriate places to discard their own pets. Quite the contrary -- abandoning a pet to fend for itself is a form of cruelty--a criminal offense punishable by law.

By domesticating small animals, we have deprived them of their survival instincts. They lack the instincts to find food and are killed by predators, hit by cars, suffer from hunger, thirst, exposure and disease, not to mention lawnmowers and pesticide poisoning.

Since they begin reproducing when they are very young, they often survive long enough to have babies, compounding the problem.

If you can no longer care for a pet, it is imperative that it be placed in a responsible home. A hasty decision can result in your former pet ending up neglected, abused or abandoned. Placement as

a classroom pet is unacceptable since it is extremely stressful for small animals. Instead, advertise in a newspaper, put up flyers and spread the word to find a permanent home. Providing supplies can help, too. If you're not successful, surrendering the animal to a shelter is the only humane -- and legal -- alternative.

If you witness anyone abandoning an animal, call Seattle Animal Control immediately at **386-PETS (7387)** and report the date, time, location, type of animal and car license number, if possible. Your name will not be released if you request confidentiality, though SAS may need your testimony in criminal proceedings to help protect animals.

MORE SUCCESS

Therapy Dogs *By Constance Starr*

Last fall, a puppy came into our lives. Andy, a border collie mix, was picked up by a Seattle Animal Control officer and brought to the shelter, undernourished, dirty and frightened. When my husband and I met him, he put his head in my lap and wagged his tail. It was love at first sight.

August and September 2001 were traumatic months us. I lost my mother to a heart attack and my Siberian husky to cancer. On Sept. 11, my son called me from New York to tell me he was OK, though he'd witnessed the terrorist attack from his balcony in Brooklyn. I was devastated. Antidepressants and counseling helped, but my husband and I knew something was missing from our lives. We needed a dog.

When we brought Andy home, it took him weeks to adjust to his surroundings and trust us. But he blossomed, gaining weight and confidence while spending his days staring out the window, waiting for us to come home. We knew he needed a sister, and I wanted another husky, so I began working with Siberian Husky Rescue. After months of searching, I found Ruby, a perfect match.

Ruby was nine months old, like Andy, and was unlikely to chase our cats. Found wandering the streets, she had been picked up by the Salem Humane Society and was being fostered by a family who raised huskies. They "field-tested" her with their cats, and she passed with flying colors. We adopted her, and she and Andy have been inseparable ever since.

One day as I walked them to the park, where kids swarmed over them. One little boy asked where I got Ruby.

"She's a rescue dog," I said, not realizing he would mistake her for a search-and-rescue dog.

"Who did she rescue?" he asked.

"Me, honey," I replied. "She rescued me."

Indeed, Andy and Ruby have rescued us from grief, and have given us immeasurable joy. They are truly "therapy dogs."

To us, there is only one thing better than adopting a homeless dog, and that's adopting two!



By Penelope Kern

A MAN, A ROOSTER, AND A LEGION OF ANGRY CROWS

In his four years with Seattle Animal Control, Officer Don Baxter has had a few bizarre encounters with birds.

Baxter apprehended the rooster, pictured above, after answering a call from a Seattle businessman who worked at the ship canal. While plowing through paperwork, the man heard a noise and looked up to find the bird perched on his desk. Apparently, he had left his office door open, and the rooster took it as an invitation to visit. When Baxter arrived, the rooster was still sitting on the desk, quite content.

On another call two years ago, Baxter answered a report from a homeowner worried about a baby crow in her yard. The crow was healthy, needing only solitude and room to practice flying, so Baxter caged the bird and walked it to a nearby park, knowing the parents would follow.

Baxter, however, didn't anticipate the number of family members deeply involved in the bird's upbringing. As Baxter knelt to release the fledgling from the cage, its parents, relatives and family friends dive-bombed Baxter, some fluttering around him, pecking with deadly aim.

"There must have been 50 of them," Baxter recalls.

"They were pretty angry."

Telepathic Communication with Animals, continued from P.2

HOW DOES IT WORK?

A telepathic animal consultation is usually done on the phone and takes about a half hour. We are all connected energetically and a communicator taps into that connection to reach your animal. Each communicator works a bit differently, but I ask clients to make a list of questions or issues that they want to discuss. We set an appointment ahead of time, and at the time of the consultation, you would call me. I telepathically connect with your animal, you ask a question, I tell you what your animal says, and we continue like that until you have your questions answered. Together we can find understanding and create more harmony in your home.

Good luck creating a closer bond with your animal companions.

WISH LIST

Your donations can help us make a difference in the lives of many loving animals. Our current wish list includes:

- ★ Small-animal water bottles
- ★ Small crock-type food dishes
- ★ Bird dishes and perches
- ★ Small cat toys (including snap-together shower rings) – Washable, please!
- ★ Treat sacks/belts for the dog walkers
- ★ Towels
- ★ Wet cat food (to entice sick cats to eat!)
- ★ Large dog crates and cat crates
- ★ Plastic Igloo dog houses
- ★ Small and medium animal cages:
 - For hamsters, gerbils, or rats
 - New or gently used
 - Non-wire-bottomed cages (please)
 - Fully-enclosed treadwheels
 - Rabbit and bird cages, too!
- ★ Wooden chew sticks for rodents, rabbits & guinea pigs
- ★ Chicken feeders and water dispensers
- ★ Large-size laminator for posters and signs



ANGELS FOR THE ANIMALS: KENNEL OFFICERS' MISSION IS LABOR OF LOVE

By Dianne Elliot, Matchmakers Program Team Leader

The two animal care officers arrive at the shelter at 10 a.m. and begin to clean and do laundry. They feverishly hose down 75 kennels and scrub more than 100 cages, then tend to over 200 animals, changing every water dish, blanket and litter box. And all of it must be done before noon, when the shelter opens.

Sometimes they have help, but many times they don't. Mei -Fu Hong and Kelly McConnaughey must juggle multiple tasks while keeping sight of the 'real' work, the care of their patients.

The animals' affection and trust of the officers is obvious, as is the officers' deep care for them. Whether cleaning, feeding, or temperament testing, it's evident – they want the animals to find permanent, loving homes.

Mei -Fu has worked at the shelter the longest -- over 18 years. Kelly is the newest, with one year under her belt. As a volunteer learning from them, I've noticed their compassion.

I've seen Mei -Fu give her lunch to a new dog who

was very scared, and I've seen Kelly walk a dog who'd been in the shelter too long, instead of spending her break relaxing over coffee. I've witnessed Mei Fu coaxing sad, abandoned cats and dogs into eating, and I've watched Kelly coach a puppy with separation anxiety, so he would have better chances for adoption.

On top of their duties, they teach volunteers how to handle the animals and labor to ensure that all adoptions are successful. For those animals not ready for adoption, they have treats and blankets to keep them comfortable, and train them in basic obedience so they'll be more adoptable when the time comes.

These are only a few of the officers' kind gestures I've witnessed. Their work isn't glamorous by any stretch, but what they do is truly heroic for the disadvantaged animals of Seattle.

The animals are very lucky to have Mei -Fu and Kelly watching over them.

FURRY 5K UPDATE

By Constance Starr

The Seattle Animal Shelter held its 3rd annual Furry 5K Fun Run and Walk June 9, 2002 at Seward Park. This year's race raised \$44,000 for the shelter's **Help The Animals Fund**, which funds vet care for homeless animals. Two thousand three hundred people, 1079 dogs and 1 very brave cat attended, and tons of colorful vendor booths provided post-race entertainment.

The Furry 5k and the **Help The Animals Fund** are shining examples of the shelter's motto: Saving One Life at a Time.

We gratefully acknowledge the following sponsors for their generous support of the Furry 5K. Without them, the success of this fundraiser wouldn't have been possible:

People Soft	Sound Mind & Body	Emerald Downs	Seattle Cooks!
Animal Surgical Clinic of Seattle	C.O.L.A.	Foot Zone	Seattle Opera
Milk-Bone	Talgo	Kenmore Air	Seattle Storm
KJR 95.7 FM	Nintendo	Landmark Theaters	Three Dog Bakery
Peds	PJ's Paws and Claws	Montrail	Northwest Runner
Talking Rain	PCC Natural Markets	Museum Quality Framing	Sports Etc.
Taco Del Mar	Iams Company	Pacific Northwest Ballet	Need for Speed
Clif Bar	AT&T Wireless	Pearl Izumi	Flyball Team
Petco	2 Dogs & A Cat	Pet Elegance	Royal Canin
Animal Emergency & Referral Center	Amtrak	Pet Lights	
Academy Press	Chuckit!	Scrub A Pup	
The Bon Marche	Dogwise	Seattle Art Museum	

Foster dog Super attended the 2002 Furry 5K to thank everyone for helping raise money for the **Help The Animals Fund**, which paid for his booboo, still in a festively decorated cast.

Couvion, continued from page 1...

with a loop used to restrain dangerous animals. He strode toward the dogs and began to roar. The dogs scattered, and Couvion chased the first onto its porch. In seconds, he had captured all three. As the Animal Control trucks drove away, the neighbors applauded Couvion. "Those were some bad dogs, and we were rookies," Rechterman recalls. "Thank God Steve was there. We felt like idiots!" Couvion has been with Seattle Animal Control for 30 years, and in that time, while saving the hides of coworkers and rescuing animals from inhumane conditions, he's seen some things that would qualify for Stephen King movies.

A little over 20 years ago, he handled a case involving two elderly sisters, who had been hoarding nearly 30 dogs and almost 30 cats in filthy conditions in their palatial Capitol Hill home. Neighbors had reported a foul smell and incessant barking, alerting Animal Control and the Police Department to the situation. By the time the agencies got search warrants and Couvion entered the house, he had to wade through ankle-deep, wall-to-wall feces to appraise the situation and round up the animals, many of whom hadn't been outside for years. The first thing Couvion saw when he stepped inside was one of the women lying on the dining room table amid a month-old Thanksgiving meal. As he approached, a full-grown cat emerged from the turkey.

"The cat had been eating the turkey, which had never been refrigerated," Couvion says. "The lady was deceased. She'd broken her leg, and gangrene had set in and killed her."

Her sister had been living there the entire time, and both had been eating cat food while they cooked human food for the animals, according to the coroner's report. Money, all of it filthy, lay in stacks around the house. The women were federal government retirees with handsome pensions and a substantial inheritance, but were mentally incompetent and had no relatives to care for them. Couvion impounded the animals and cleaned them up.

Many were adopted, but others were so wild, fractious and diseased, they had to be euthanized. The surviving sister was placed in a senior citizen's home.

"We're doing society a big service, getting elderly people, mentally-challenged people, who sometimes have children, and others the system failed to observe, the help they need," he says. "Not to mention getting the animals out of such poor conditions and into healthier situations."

Sometimes, what starts out as a routine dog bite report turns out to be a festering societal wound. Eighteen years ago, Animal Control received a complaint on a dog that had bitten a child on the grounds of an elementary school. Couvion and another officer went to impound the dog, loose on school property. They followed the dog to its house, where they made a chilling discovery.

When they stepped onto the back porch, they saw pentagrams on the walls and floors inside, which was littered with body parts of ritually slaughtered dogs and cats. They returned with a search warrant and police backup and discovered paraphernalia used in Satanic worship, such as black candles, specially-formatted silver knives, and more dogs and cats, alive in cages. There was also a pit for animal fighting, smeared with blood, in the basement.

They confiscated the animals and filed charges, including cruelty to animals, against the residents. Though Couvion and the other Animal Control officer didn't know what they were getting into at the time, they've since taken courses on organized crime and occult practices involving animal cruelty. Now, Couvion knows how to handle such cases, he's no longer taken by surprise, and he understands the impact those situations have on society.

These days, he still sees a disturbing share of abuse, although he cannot discuss cases that are pending. He still fights aggressively to rescue animals from horrible conditions. In spite of 30 years of constant exposure to heartbreaking cases of abuse and neglect, he's never lost his dedication or compassion. Within the law, he will do whatever it takes to rescue animals – and people -- in-need.

"The compassion and love for animals and people keeps me going," Couvion says. "Seeing misery every day wears you down, but not to the point where you don't want to keep trying to make the world a better place."

FIGHTING ANIMAL CRUELTY
RECONNECTING OWNERS
WITH LOST ANIMALS
PROMOTING THE SPAY AND
NEUTER OF ALL PETS
REHABILITATING SICK,
INJURED, AND ABUSED DOGS
AND CATS

SEATTLE
animal shelter
2061 15TH AVENUE WEST
SEATTLE, WA 98119

PRSR
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE WA
PERMIT NO. 1407